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RUNCORN URBAN DISTRICT

COUNCIL.

# A N N U A L  R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

Year ending

31st December, 1941.

Public Health Dept.,
Town Hall,
Runcorn.

To the Chairman & Members
of the Urban District Council of Runcorn.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following curtailed report for 1941 which is in accordance with Ministry of Health instructions. The usual figures and details of all services which come under my control are being kept so that they can be included in a comprehensive report which will be required after the war.

Birth rate 18.8 per 1,000 against 19.00 for 1940.

Death rate 12.08 per 1,000 against 14.15 for 1940.

Infantile Mortality rate 64.9 against 55.69 for 1940.

The causes of the highest mortality were in the following order:-

Heart Disease - Cancer - Pneumonia.

There were no outstanding causes of sickness or invalidity and nothing approaching an epidemic of infectious disease during the year. For this we must be very thankful in view of the depleted medical service and the high percentage of workers (male and female) employed in industry.

WATER SUPPLY.

Consistently satisfactory reports have been received on all samples sent to the County Analyst.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA and MEAT INSPECTIONS have been efficiently carried out.

SAMPLES taken under the Food and Drugs Adulteration Act showed only 1.4 per cent to be adulterated.

CANAL BOATS.

The Annual Report of the Canal Boat Inspector was good and has already been forwarded to the Ministry.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Including sessions at the Welfare Centre kindly attended by the local Medical Practitioners, just on 50% of the child population had been immunised by the end of 1941 from the inception of the free scheme in 1938. There is obviously room for great improvement which will be expected as Parents and Guardians realise their responsibilities and the unnecessary and serious risk in leaving their children unprotected against a dread disease.

SALVAGE.

The collection of salvage has been energetically carried out.

INFESTATION.

Infestations of children with head lice, which can not only convey infection but through irritation and sometimes causing septic conditions, lower the standard of health of the children affected, should be purposefully tackled and definitely eradicated.

Advice, if required, on the best method will be gladly given at the School Clinic, and the simple steps necessary to ensure every child having a clean head and body.

CIVIL DEFENCE SERVICES.

I wish to commend the loyalty and sustained interest of the First Aid and Ambulance personnel over a long period of Training and "Waiting".

I beg to remain,
Your obedient servant,

JAMES CULLEN.

Acting Medical Officer of Health.